Illegal mining operations in Haryana

757. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal mines operating in Haryana as on the 30th June, 2005, district-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to stop illegal mining in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sea-bed mapping

758. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Geological Survey of India has been undertaking sea-bed mapping and have collected sea-bed sediment samples for manganese modules and hydrates;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the prospects of off-shore mining and their economic viability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Marine Wing of Geological Survey of India (GSI) is engaged in sea-bed mapping since 1983. In course of mapping sea-bed sediment, samples have been collected systematically. Scientists of GSI participated in Department of Ocean Development (DOD) cruises for manganese modules. The study of manganese modules is within the purview of DOD. Marine Wing, GSI along with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) also undertook surveys for Gas Hydrates. GSI has collected data base on gas hydrates within the Extended Economic Zone (EEZ) with regard to techtono-geomorphic environment, Sea-bed sediment nature, their ROOM (readily oxidized organic matter) and total